

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Vermont?

There was no objection.

HONORING JOSEPH FANDINO

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of Mr. Joseph Gregory Fandino, a resident of south Florida and a hero who lost his life while serving our Nation in Vietnam in 1972.

Last Friday, on Foreign Affairs Day, Joseph was honored by the Department of State and the American Foreign Service Association, who commemorated their colleagues who died in the line of duty overseas.

Joseph was one of the first Hispanic-born service officers who, despite being told by classmates that he had the wrong kind of ethnic background, served the United States valiantly for many years.

Joseph also served in the Air Force during the Korean war and as a Foreign Service officer in Vietnam, the Dominican Republic, Spain and Canada where he worked with large numbers of refugees fleeing Cuba.

Joseph put himself in harm's way, choosing to sacrifice his safety in order to assist others and advance freedom and peace around the world.

His commitment to our American ideals, his courage and his good humor during difficult times will be forever remembered.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to salute our heroes.

FOSTER YOUTH MONTH

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Foster Care Month and on behalf of the foster youth across this country.

I'd like to commend Representatives KAREN BASS, TOM MARINO, JIM McDERMOTT, and MICHELE BACHMANN for their leadership of the bipartisan Foster Youth Caucus and for their work on this important issue.

Foster youth are some of the most at-risk children in our society. They are often the victims of abuse or neglect, and too many face trials and tribulations beyond their years.

So much of what we take for granted—a stable home, living with our siblings or returning to the same school year after year—are constant obstacles for these children.

However, the month of May and, in fact, every day should serve as a reminder of the opportunities that we all have to make a positive difference in their lives.

Growing up, my parents welcomed many foster children into our family

and provided them with a loving, stable and nurturing environment.

Mr. Speaker, these children belong to all of us, and we are all responsible for them.

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of serving as co-chairman of the Congressional Natural Gas Caucus, a bipartisan group working to identify challenges and further utilizing this clean, abundant energy resource.

One of these challenges has to do with the swarm of misinformation that surrounds the process of hydraulic fracturing, the extraction process which is stringently regulated at the State level.

On April 29, after a 16-month investigation, regulators in my home State of Pennsylvania found that hydraulic fracturing, contrary to highly publicized claims, is not to blame for high methane levels found in drinking water in the town of Franklin Forks. Instead, it was due to naturally occurring methane. The same incident was used by environmentalists as an example of the dangers of fracking and the subject of numerous media reports.

Mr. Speaker, science and facts—not rhetoric and scare tactics—must guide our energy policy. The fact of the matter is that there has been no confirmed reports of groundwater contamination from hydraulic fracturing. Even former EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson has testified to this fact.

□ 1820

HONORING AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM AT UC DAVIS

(Mr. GARAMENDI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the University of California, Davis. This historic land grant university excels in a wide range and variety of fields, including medicine, physics, law, and agriculture.

Today, the University of California, Davis, agriculture and forestry program was recognized as the best in the world by QS World University Rankings, a respected firm that measures publications and citations in scientific journals and the program's reputation among both academics and employers in the field. I offer my highest congratulations to the school's faculty, students, and staff.

For decades, the University of California, Davis, has developed cutting-edge farm practices, research, and local partnerships. Right now, they're studying genetics, nutrition, milk, wine grapes, and so much more. As epitomized by the mechanical tomato harvester and other inventions developed there, this work directly boosts agricultural production and profits.

As we write the new farm bill, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting agricultural studies and research.

VICTOR FROM HUFFMAN, TEXAS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Victor from Huffman, Texas, writes me this:

I work. I pay my taxes. In order to earn that paycheck, I work on construction projects. Every morning we file into a job site like cattle. We are searched, scanned and tested. But the government hands out our money to those who don't work for free houses, cars, food, and the list just gets longer. I work 84 hours a week just to make ends meet. The more I work, the more I get taxed. We have families that we only see at night, if at all. We work outages, turn-arounds, and shutdowns. If I don't pay my taxes, I go to jail. If I don't do my job, I'm fired. We work extra to have extra, not so we can pay for more government programs.

Mr. Speaker, workers are tired of their taxes going up just so the government can get more people dependent on government.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING HIGH TECH HIGH

(Mr. PETERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my colleague, SUSAN DAVIS, I rise in recognition of the High Tech High robotics team, nicknamed the Holy Cows, who recently won a world championship robotics competition. High Tech High is located in the Point Loma neighborhood of San Diego in the 52nd District.

The team beat out more than 10,000 other students to win the prized Chairman's Award at the For Inspiration Recognition of Science and Technology event.

This group of talented young students has used their expertise to develop a smart phone app for robotics, and they even took time to help other San Diego robotics teams along the way.

I'm proud that High Tech High and local high-tech companies in San Diego, including Qualcomm, SAIC, and Nordson Asymtek, have supported these scholars as they won multiple regional championships on the road to their world title. The success of these students demonstrates what can be done in a school culture that celebrates STEM education. Investments in the field of science, technology, engineering, and math education must continue to be at the forefront of our national school priorities.

With that in mind, I congratulate the High Tech High team, and look forward to their future successes.

HONORING POLICE OFFICERS' SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, this week marks Police Week, an annual tribute to those serving in law enforcement, with May 15 set aside as Peace Officers Memorial Day, as designated in 1962 by President Kennedy.

We honor those who dedicate their lives to safeguarding their fellow citizens, with May 15 the day to remember the fallen with deepest gratitude and prayers. We cherish the memory of all heroes and public servants, and especially for Pennsylvanians, Montgomery County police officer Brad Fox who lost his life last September on the eve of his 35th birthday.

Prior to becoming a police officer, Brad Fox was a United States Marine staff sergeant who served his country for 10 years, including tours of duty in Iraq. We join those who hold these honorable individuals in the highest esteem as we, again, acknowledge the service and sacrifice of all law enforcement officers throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and this great Nation.

HONORING HIGH TECH HIGH

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague, Mr. PETERS, and rise to congratulate the remarkable achievement of San Diego's very own High Tech High robotics team.

This past week, the team participated in the largest and more prestigious school robotics world championship, and then came home taking the event's biggest prize. On behalf of San Diegans, we couldn't be any more proud of these remarkable and talented students, who are destined to change our world with their ideas and innovations.

High Tech High represents all that is possible in K-12 education. Some of these students never envisioned themselves in a STEM field, and now they have internships at some of the top STEM companies in the country.

I was able to visit and see the robotics team in action, and it was clear to me that the spirit of teamwork and cooperation I witnessed will make them successful in STEM fields and beyond. These students represent the best and the brightest in our Nation, and we stand and congratulate their hard-earned win and know that there is more to come.

HONORING RAYMOND CLARK THOMPSON

(Ms. FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that on Sunday, Vietnam war veteran Raymond Clark Thompson's name is being added to the Vietnam War Memorial Wall where he will be remembered for his valiant service in the Army and extraordinary sacrifice for our country.

A native of Indiana and the oldest of six children, Ray served in the Vietnam War as a radio specialist.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to waive my time, and I will try again in a few minutes.

ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACT

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a commonsense bill that I will be introducing to give more flexibility to students eligible for the Pell Grant program.

Last month, I had the privilege of spending a week on the road, touring and meeting with educators, students, business people, and others at the seven community colleges that serve my congressional district. On this tour I learned more about the ways local community colleges and businesses are coming together to address the skills gap, increase American manufacturing, and put people back to work.

However, the one disappointment I learned during this tour is that the Pell Grant program doesn't give students who want to go to school year-round enough flexibility. Due to senseless changes in 2011, Pell Grants are no longer available for use during the summer semester under too many circumstances.

The bill I am introducing, called the Access to Education and Training Act, would give more flexibility to the Pell Grant program to allow students to receive assistance year-round. This is important because many of the students I've met are interested in accelerated training courses that take place over the course of an entire year. Many of those who would benefit most are non-traditional students who want to complete their courses faster, simply so they can get back to the workforce. I want to make sure that community colleges are accessible and affordable for all Americans who want to get an education, learn a skill, and acquire the training they need to excel in today's economy.

Giving more flexibility to the Pell Grant program would help ensure success for hardworking students simply looking to get ahead.

□ 1830

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Nurses Week and to support one of the most important nurses I know, my wife, Shannon.

Shannon is the mother to our three children and has been a nurse for 18 years. She now teaches our next generation of nurses in Springfield, Illinois, at St. John's College.

It's important for us to recognize the more than 3.1 million nurses across this great country. They are truly the backbone of our Nation's hospitals, clinics, and doctors' offices.

I know firsthand that nurses work every day to ensure that their patients are receiving the quality care they need and deserve. In fact, most of the time, they are the first and last contact patients and their families receive. This is not always an easy task, but one that has greatly contributed to making our health care system one of the greatest in the world.

This week we celebrate all of our nurses who work long, hard hours and go the extra mile to provide safe, high-quality care to their patients and pave the way for a more innovative and efficient health care system.

Thank you, Shannon, and thank you to all the nurses who care for our families each and every day.

RECOGNIZING THE 2013 WOODHAVEN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor eight exceptional students from my hometown of Fort Worth, Texas, who are all Woodhaven Scholarship recipients.

Ambar Aguilera from Amon Carter-Riverside High School, Carolyn Estrada and Rasheda Bellat, Eastern Hills High School, Maria Barragan at Nolan Catholic High School, Ta'lor at Dunbar High School, Kimberlee Sims at Temple Christian School, David Detrick at Polytechnic High School, and Sierra Wilson at Northside High School.

Created in 1998 to support the educational needs of the East Fort Worth community, the Woodhaven Scholarship helps students who are looking to pursue their dream of higher education.

Woodhaven Scholarships are given to East Fort Worth high school seniors who plan to attend Texas colleges and universities. Scholarships are awarded to students attending 4-year institutions as well as those attending 2-year colleges. The funds can be used for college tuition, educational fees, equipment, supplies, as well as on-campus housing expenses.

The eight students chosen will spread their talents across different prestigious institutions in the great State